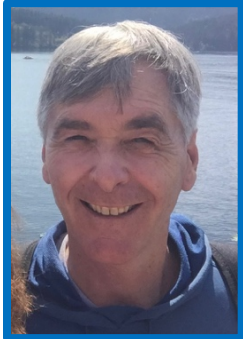




# The Silver Slug

Official Newsletter of the UCSC Retirees Association  
Volume 31, Issue #3, April 2021



## President's Message April 2021

Dear Retirees,

I am really enjoying this beautiful Santa Cruz Spring, the world seems lush with renewal. Spring feels extra special this year as we begin to emerge from the pandemic with hope from the vaccinations. I have my 2nd shot scheduled in early May. I hope that you all have had the opportunity to be vaccinated so that we can all get back out into the world.

In our Zoom board meetings, the Retiree's Association is starting to plan for post-COVID events in person. But we are not quite there yet! On Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 11:00am we will have our annual Scholarship Luncheon as a virtual Zoom event, without the lunch. This is to honor UCSC students who have been selected to receive scholarships that are sponsored by the Retiree's Association. We will hear from the scholarship recipients and Chancellor Cynthia Larive is also scheduled to speak. If you would like to join us, you can register at the following link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSekOiKs\\_bTISDM99JzDp5R-3-EoQXx\\_tdBPoBiuS\\_Sx3FhO\\_A/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSekOiKs_bTISDM99JzDp5R-3-EoQXx_tdBPoBiuS_Sx3FhO_A/viewform?usp=sf_link)

If you have not used Zoom before and would like some help, the Retiree Emeriti Center website has a Virtual Resources page with "Tips For Using Zoom" and other online information. Here is the link to that page: <https://rec.ucsc.edu/retiree-life/virtual-resources.html>. The next event is "Welcome to Retirement", which is planned to be a Zoom event in June.

When we are able, we will start out with small informal gatherings and work our way back to larger gatherings as health officials advise. Walks and hikes, microbrew tours, wine tastings, etc. should be starting soon. Stay tuned, we would love to see you again.

The RA Board is still looking for a Fundraising Chair and a Vice President. Please let us know if you are interested or have anyone to refer. Our representatives Frank Trueba and Christy Dawley from the Retiree Emeriti Center will be virtually attending the Council of University of California Retirement Associations (CUCRA) quarterly meeting at the end of April. Among other things, they will learn more about the progress of service improvements planned by RASC.

Please make sure that you read the information about the Accellion data breach included in Christy's Corners. This data breach could potentially affect retirees. Learn about safety measures you can take to protect yourself

If you are reading this newsletter away from Santa Cruz, we would love to hear from you. Send an email to [ucscsilverslug@gmail.com](mailto:ucscsilverslug@gmail.com) and let us know where you are and what you are experiencing this spring. We would like to do more to stay in touch with our relocated members.

Sincerely,  
Bill Parro  
[wcparro@ucsc.edu](mailto:wcparro@ucsc.edu)

## Christy's Corner - News from the Retiree and Emeriti Center

Christy Dawley Coordinator, UC Santa Cruz Retiree and Emeriti Center (831)502-8202 [rec@ucsc.edu](mailto:rec@ucsc.edu)

### **Accellion Data Breach**

As was announced on March 31, UC learned that it, along with other universities, government agencies, and private companies throughout the country, was recently subject to a cybersecurity attack.

Like several hundred other institutions throughout the country, including universities, government institutions and private companies, UC has been using a vendor service called Accellion File Transfer Appliance (FTA) to transfer information. Accellion was the target of an international cyber-attack where the perpetrators exploited a vulnerability in Accellion's program and attacked roughly 100 organizations. UC is committed to protecting the information security of all members of our community. In response to the recent cyberattack on Accellion, UC is providing free credit monitoring and identity theft protection through Experian to all UC faculty, staff, students and retirees.

### **What you should do to protect your personal and financial information:**

Sign up for free credit monitoring and identity theft protection:

<https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/data-security/index.html>

Register for complimentary ID theft protection

Sign up at the Experian IdentityWorks website using the enrollment code **JCZGTC333**:

- **Adults:** [www.experianidworks.com/RR3Bplus](http://www.experianidworks.com/RR3Bplus)
- **Minors:** [www.experianidworks.com/minorplus](http://www.experianidworks.com/minorplus)

For help with enrolling, call (866) 617-1923 and reference engagement number DB26512.

Please see the FAQ page for more information:

<https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/data-security/updates-faq/accellion-faq.html>

### **Town Hall Session**

UCSC Information Technology Services (ITS) held a town hall session on the Accellion Data Breach. To watch a recording of this session, please visit here: <https://video.ibm.com/recorded/129691459>

UC Information Technology Services has more information online at:

<https://its.ucsc.edu/protect-your-data.html>

For support and questions, contact the ITS Support Center at <https://itrequest.ucsc.edu>, email [help@ucsc.edu](mailto:help@ucsc.edu) or phone at (831) 459-4357

### **Watch out for suspicious emails**

We believe the person(s) behind this attack are sending threatening mass emails to members of the UC community in an attempt to scare people into giving them money. Although the language may vary, the general theme will be that, "Your personal data has been stolen and will be published." Anyone receiving this message should either forward it to your local information security office or simply delete it.



UC Retirees Travel is looking forward to exploring the world again when it is safe to do so. On our website you can find information on trips planned for later in 2021 and 2022. There are recorded webinars, itineraries, and details about pricing and registration. Start planning now!

- Canadian Rockies by Train - Sept. 9, 2021
- The Baltic Capitals & St. Petersburg - June 6, 2022
- Cuba Discovery - Oct. 17, 2022
- Chile & Argentina: The Andes to Patagonia - Nov. 27, 2022

<http://cucra.ucsd.edu/travel/>



**McIvor’s Corner – News from the UCSC Benefits Office**

Marianne McIvor, Health Care Facilitator (she/her)  
[mecivor@ucsc.edu](mailto:mecivor@ucsc.edu)  
 Working remotely per shelter in place requirements

As spring is in the air, I hope this newsletter finds you well. The month of April brings this news of interest for your pocketbook.

**2021 cost-of-living adjustments announced for UCRP benefit recipients**

University of California Retirement Plan (UCRP) and UC-PERS Plus 5 Plan benefit recipients, including those receiving survivor and UCRP disability income, will receive a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) effective July 1, 2021. The increase will appear in checks paid on July 30.

July 1, 2021 COLA rates by retirement date

Retirement Date	COLA
On or before July 1, 2019	2.00%
July 2, 2019, up to and including July 1, 2020	1.28%

UCRP benefit recipients are eligible to receive a COLA if they have been retired one full year by July 1. Therefore, those members whose retirement or disability date is after July 1, 2020, are not yet eligible to receive a COLA. More details at: <https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/2021/03/2021-cost-of-living-adjustments-announced.html>

**On-going COVID-19 news**

Your UC benefits are more important now than ever. Keep up to date on how UC and your health, welfare and retirement benefits plans are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic at the following link: <https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/coronavirus/benefits/index.html>

## Retirees Association Scholarship Committee Report

As of the end of February 2021, the Silver Slug Award Endowment was up to \$56,683.08 and the UCSC Retirees Association Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship Endowment was up to \$204,105.59. Additionally, the UCSC Retirees Association Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship Current Year Fund totaled \$3,186.29.

Please mark your calendars for **Tuesday, May 11th** when we will have a virtual Scholarship Award Event via Zoom. We will honor our students who will be receiving the Silver Slug Award scholarships for UCSC current staff and retirees and their dependents, and the Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship for UCSC military veteran students. Their names, photos and bios can be found below and continuing on pages 5 & 6.

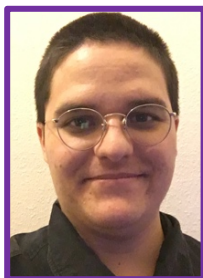
Many, many thanks go to Christy Dawley for all her time and effort spent in arranging the March scholarship Zoom meeting for me. The scholarship

committee chose three students to receive Silver Slug Awards and ten students to receive the UCSC Retirees Association Bruce Lane Memorial scholarships. The scholarship committee members are Barbara Collins, Sharon Dirnberger, Corinne Miller, Sally Lester, Nancy Pascal, Mary Wells, and Daniel Young. I thank them for all their good work and time spent in determining which students they would select from the applications we received. Our president, Bill Parro, was interested in the process, so I invited him to attend one of our meetings. He made some valuable comments. My special thanks goes to Sally Lester, who was so much help to me with the student applications; to our military veteran coordinator, Julie Howell, who kept me well-informed and who provided information to the scholarship committee members; and last but not least, to Sharon Dirnberger, who provided the committee with additional data regarding the student's academic standing, etc. Please be careful and safe until the virus is under control.

Maxine Lane  
Scholarship Committee Chair

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### Silver Slug Award – 2021 recipients



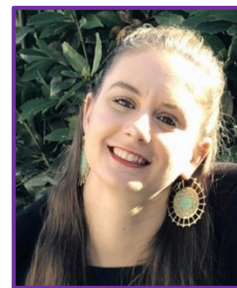
**Enrique Garcia**

I am a Junior transfer majoring in Literature with a concentration in Creative Writing. Aside from eventually earning my B.A. and my M.A. in Literature, my future goals are to eventually become a bestselling author. My plans for this award are to help pay for my 2021-2022 academic fees that are not covered by financial aid.



**DeShonne Keller**

I have worked as Professional Staff since 2012 as the College Assistant at Kresge College. My major is CRES-Critical Race & Ethnic Studies. I plan to use this award to cover the balance of tuition for the Spring quarter and apply the rest to Summer tuition. My goal after graduation is to apply for a Program Coordinator position at UCSC, specifically within departments that support students of color and non-traditional students.



**CJ Fagundes**

I am a fourth year Psychology major. I may continue on to graduate school, but at this time am undecided. Regardless, I plan to use my degree to further assist students in higher education as they navigate their experience.

## UCSC Retirees Association Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship – 2021 Recipients



**Marco Carmona**  
I am a 4th year PhD student in CMPE. My future goal is to work on rovers that get sent to other planets. My plans for this award is to pay for rent . I am a veteran of the US Army National Guard as a heavy duty truck operator.



**Brittney Krall**  
My major is Environmental Studies/GIS and I hope to obtain an internship this summer after I graduate. This award will go toward living expenses. I served as an aviation electronics tech and hazmat tech while in the Marine Corps.



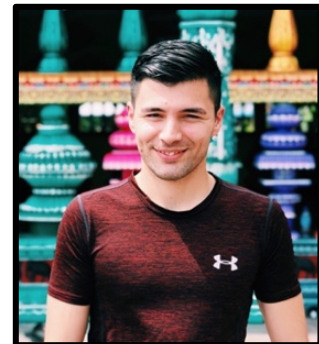
**Tyler Lockwood**  
I am a junior majoring in MCD Biology. I am planning on applying to medical school this year. I will put the award towards a new computer to help continue my online learning. I served in the Army as a medic.



**Thomas McCall**  
I am pursuing my PhD in Electrical Engineering so that I can teach. I plan on using the scholarship to help with living costs for my family. Active / Reserve Enlisted Fire-Controlman 2010-2019, Reserve Officer 2019- present.



**Heather Mentzer**  
I am an Aircrew Marine Corps veteran and a 2nd year graduate student of physics. My future goals are to perpetuate diversity and inclusion in science/education while earning my PhD. This award supports my return to CA.



**Kevin Sanford**  
I am a veteran naval nuclear power plant electrician. I am now a Junior majoring in physics. I plan to participate in undergraduate research and finish my degree. This award allows me to pay for rent during the summer months.

(continued next page)

## UCSC Retirees Association Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship – 2021 Recipients



**Colin Wilga**

I am a Senior majoring in Film and Digital Media. I was a Forward Observer in the United States Army. I plan to use the award to bolster my skills in filmmaking through the purchasing of more equipment.



**Jasmine Lyng**

I'm a junior psych major at UCSC. My job in the USAF consisted of clerical work in support of Nellis fighter pilots. I'll be applying to PhD programs in the fall and this scholarship will assist me broadly in that endeavor.



**Sammy Tesfari**

I am a current Junior in Computer Engineering and I plan to use the award to financially support myself through the next 3 years of my educational career. I served 4 years in the United States Marine Corps as a Network Admin.

*Dustin Gray – photo and bio were not available at the time the Silver Slug went to press.*

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### In Memoriam

Word of the deaths of the following UCSC staff and faculty has been received. Condolences are extended to their families, friends and colleagues.

January 2021 to March 2021

Harold Widom  
Ida Pauer  
Robert Shepherd  
Carl Schaarschmidt





## Slugs on the Go!

UCSC retirees find ways to be of service, stay active, and learn new things.

*If you have photos or stories to share, please submit to [ucscsilverslug@gmail.com](mailto:ucscsilverslug@gmail.com)*



### Divine Equine

Several members of the UCSC Retirees Association are volunteers at a local non-profit called Divine Equine. This organization provides equine-assisted therapy for people who are functionally diverse on a 13-acre equestrian center in the hills above Soquel. Equine-assisted therapy is a range of activities with horses to improve human physical, emotional and mental health. People can find strength and independence through the healing power of the horse. The success of the program relies heavily on volunteers and there are a variety of tasks that need to be done. Retirees Elisabet Hiatt, Marilyn Chapin, Karalee Richter, Martha Keeler, and Cori Houston help out with things like feeding the horses, cleaning stalls, maintaining the landscaping, and also working directly with the students when they are participating

in a lesson. Equine-assisted therapy gives the ability to control a horse as well as one's own body which inspires self-confidence, responsibility and encourages teamwork. Volunteers are key in this process to help provide a physically and psychologically safe environment for the students and the horse.



*Elisabet Hiatt is the Barn Manager at Divine Equine and also trains the horses. Here she is working with a new horse named Felicity, orienting her to new surroundings and building a foundation of trust.*

*Marilyn Chapin volunteers to help keep the stalls clean and also assist during lessons. She says it's a great upper body workout!*

For more information go to <https://divineequinetherapy.org/>

